

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The State Timber Enterprise (Lesnoye Promyshlennoye Khozyaystvo ~~-----~~ LesPromKhoz) at Gelendzhik was an agency of the Ministry of the Timber Industry (Ministerstvo Lesnoy Promyshlennosti) in Moscow. The task of the Gelendzhik agency was procurement and processing of timber cut in the area.

I often visited its collection points and sawmill. The agency's administration was located on Lunacharskiy ulitsa in Gelendzhik; the director was (fnu) Rato-byelskiy, who supervised one deputy and about 12 employees. I do not know the exact number of workers and lumberjacks, but I believe there were several hundred.

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2. Four timber-cutting areas with collecting points (delyanka) were under the LesPromKhoz administration at Gelendzhik. They were:

- a. The Myagkaya Shchel area located near the 13-km point on the road leading to Pshada via Mikhaylovskiy Pereval.
- b. The 17th-km area on the same road in the vicinity of Mikhaylovskiy Pereval.
- c. The Shiroko-Pshadskaya Shchelina located about four km northwest of Pshada. This was the largest of the collecting points.

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(Note: W - Western Distribution; L - Limited; R - Restricted; S - Special; T - Technical; U - Unrestricted)

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- d. Pshada area in the vicinity of the village of Pshada.
 - e. In addition to these four timber-cutting areas and collection points, the agency also owned a sawmill (lesopilnyy zavod) close to the Shiroko-Pshadskaya Shchelina collection point.
3. LesPromKhoz turned out mostly oak lumber for construction purposes, since oak forests predominated in the Gelendzhik area. Ash, English elms, aspen, and elder were also cut for firewood. Elder, however, was cut mostly for lumber. Oak trees cut by the Gelendzhik Enterprise were of various sizes. The largest trunks were about two meters in diameter at the base; however, most of the oak cut for lumber had a diameter at the base of the trunk of from 50 to 70 cm, affording timber in 12 m. lengths. Two types of oak were cut; southern oak (yuzhnyy dub) and Circassian oak (dub Cherkes). Although both types were quite similar in appearance, they had differences in grain: the Cherkes was twisted inside, and could not, therefore, be used for lumber; except for occasional use for short boards, it was cut mainly for firewood; the southern oak had an even grain and the trunk was used solely for lumber.
 4. Each timber-cutting area under the administration of the Gelendzhik State Timber Enterprise had its own timber-cutting detail of several dozen lumberjacks. Trees were cut with hand saws and axes. Felled trees were stripped of branches and dragged by horses or oxen to collection points. Sometimes this point was five to six kilometers away from the cutting area. When there was some kind of road available, the timber was loaded on primitive carts. In regions where no roads were available, the timber was dragged by iron chains to the collecting point. Firewood was graded and stacked in the open; sale of timber and firewood to customers was done at the collection point. Normally the timber was then transported by customers; but in some cases, when the necessary arrangements had been made with the Gelendzhik agency, the means of transportation could be supplied by them. However, this was exceptional, since the agency had only four trucks at its disposal: two GAZ-AA of 1½-ton capacity; one ZIS-5 of three-ton capacity; and one ZIS-150 of four-ton capacity. The Timber Enterprise's main customers were rest homes and sanitariums in Gelendzhik. Several Novorossiysk State agencies and organizations were also regular customers.
 5. The sawmill in the Shiroko-Pshadskaya Shchelina area consisted of several buildings. One large, wooden, barracks-type building was used as a shop. It was equipped with:
 - a. Five to six steam-operating circular saws; the largest one was 60 cm. in diameter.
 - b. One vertical cutter with five or six saws
 - c. One steam engine with boiler which provided power for the operation of machinery

The director of this mill was (fnu) Shadrin. The mill was operated in one eight-hour shift. I do not know how many workers were employed there, but together with loaders it might have been about 50.
 6. Workers employed with LesPromKhoz lived in wooden barracks located at the timber collecting points. These were small wooden structures housing two apartments each of two rooms and a kitchen. I do not know what the rent was for such an apartment, but I know that many workers after having worked two years for LesPromKhoz had managed to save enough money to buy lumber and to build such houses. An agency-operated grocery store where workers could buy their food was located at the 17th-km collecting point. Since almost all lumberjacks were married and had lots adjoining their houses where they used to keep fowl, pigs, and even cows, procurement of food was not a problem.

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7. Lumberjacks were paid piece wages. I do not know how much they received for construction timber; but, for each cubic meter of firewood they cut, they were paid 18 rubles. The selling price of such firewood at the collecting point was 20 rubles per cubic meter. Lumberjacks could make 800-1,000 rubles per month; some managed to make 1,200 rubles. Since the Gelendzhik winters were very mild, with little snow, the timber-cutting season lasted throughout the year, perhaps being discontinued only during several rainy days.
8. In addition to the State Timber Enterprise there was in Gelendzhik an agency of LesKhoz, which I think, although I am not sure, was subordinate to the Forest Ministry (MinLesKhoz). The Gelendzhik LesKhoz agency was located on Shiroko-Pshadskaya Shchelina, close to the State Timber Enterprise. The main tasks of LesKhoz, as I understood it, were preservation of forests and reforestation. However, in addition to these, LesKhoz was very active in cutting timber and selling it to customers. LesKhoz also had several timber-cutting areas and collecting points in the Gelendzhik vicinity. Two of them were located on both slopes of Mikhaylovskiy Pereval. Quite a number of private lumberjacks were used by LesKhoz for cutting firewood. It was common for a group of unemployed lumberjacks to approach prospective customers with an offer to deliver firewood at certain prices. Having secured one or several such customers, the lumberjacks would then ask LesKhoz for authorization to utilize fallen trees (valezchnik) in an area. Normally LesKhoz would designate the exact area and give a written authorization to the lumberjacks to use fallen trees there for cutting into firewood. It would be agreed that a certain amount of money, usually two rubles per cubic meter, would be deposited in the LesKhoz office, the exact amount depending on the quantity of firewood which the lumberjacks procured. The average price for which the lumberjacks would sell their firewood, on the spot, would normally be a bit over 20 rubles per cubic meter since the wood was generally very dry. The areas in which LesKhoz gave authorizations to private lumberjacks to procure firewood were usually far away from any roads. Transportation costs for such firewood were rather high; because this was dry wood, the people preferred it. I remember that in 1951 the Gelendzhik Rest Home [redacted] bought 1,200 cu. m. of such firewood from private lumberjacks and hauled it with three trucks to Gelendzhik; afterwards two of the trucks had to be overhauled.

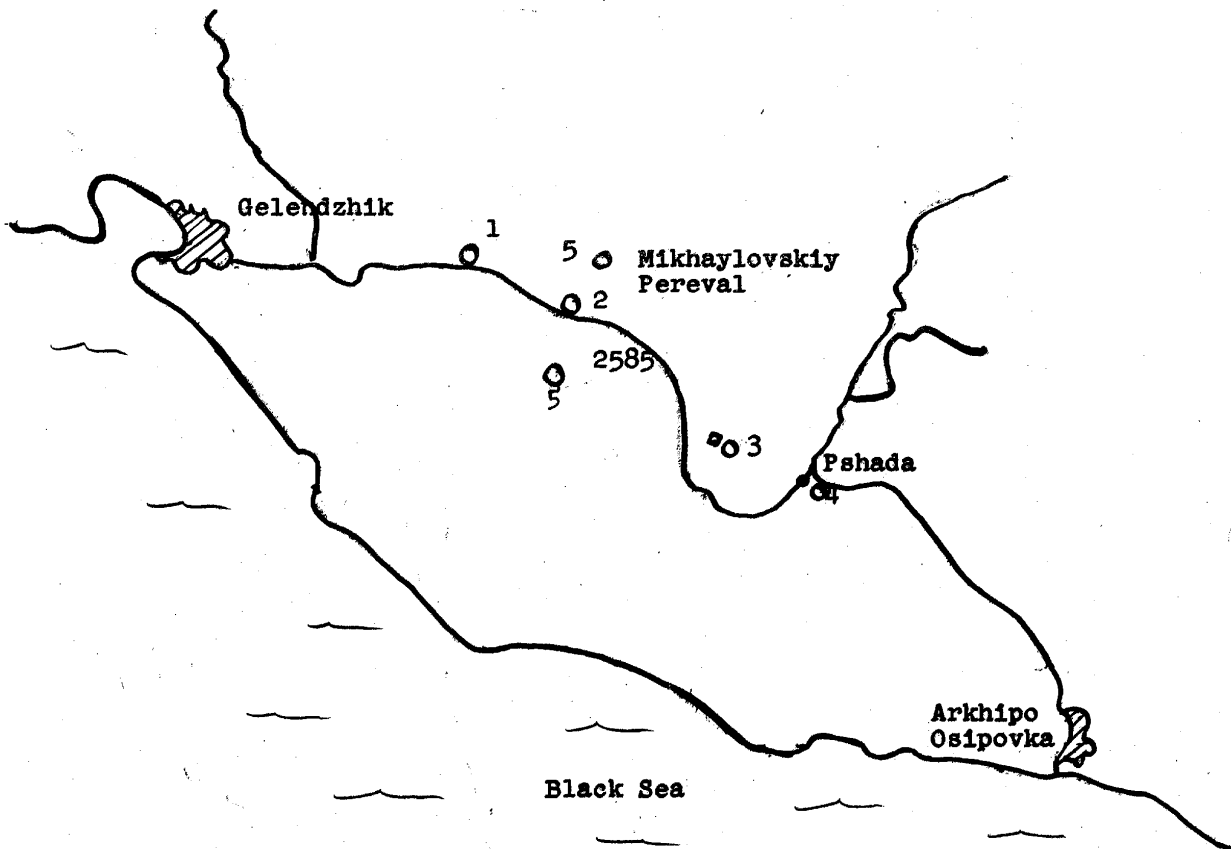
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Legend

1. Myagkaya Shchel
2. 17th km
3. Shiroko-Pshadskaya Shchel
4. Pshada
5. Timber collection points of LesKhoz

Location Sketch of Timber-Cutting Areas of LesPromKhoz and
LesKhoz at Gelendzhik

Scale: 1:250,000

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